

Application No. 09/455,574
Paper Dated: January 23, 2004
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of July 29, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 3749-991620

REMARKS

Claims 35, 36, 38-50, and 61-64 are currently pending in this application.

Applicant submits this Supplemental Response to correct an inadvertent conversion error in the absorbency data recited in the previous Response dated December 29, 2003. Specifically, pages 3 and 4 of the previous Response recited that absorbent material applied to each of the substrates using a screen having a mesh width of 550 μ m and 355 μ m, respectively, corresponded to a substrate with islets having a diameter of 170 μ and 120 μ , respectively. This conversion was inadvertently incorrectly set forth. To state correctly the conversion, the screen having a mesh width of 550 μ m and 355 μ m, respectively, corresponds to a substrate with islets having a diameter of 550 μ and at least 350 μ , respectively. Therefore, based on the previously submitted Declaration of Dr. Harald R. Schmidt dated November 24, 2003, the substrate with the islets having a diameter of 350 μ resulted in a swelling height of 0.44 mm and the substrate with the islets having a diameter of 550 μ resulted in a swelling height of 0.60 mm. These corrections are illustrated in the attached new graph entitled "Absorbency Data," prepared by the undersigned, wherein the curve of the available data provides more convincing evidence to corroborate the new and unexpected swelling height results throughout the claimed range of 10 μ to 1000 μ . The "Absorbency Data" graph submitted on December 29, 2003 should be considered to be withdrawn by the Applicant and the accompanying "Absorbency Data" substituted therefor. There are no inadvertent errors in the November 24, 2003 Declaration of Dr. Harald R. Schmidt. Entry of this Supplemental Response and the corrected Absorbency Data is respectfully requested.

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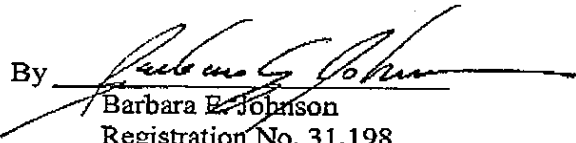
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks in this Supplemental Response, the previously submitted Declarations of Dr. Harald R. Schmidt, and the remarks in the Response of December 29, 2003, Applicant believes that claims 35, 36, 38-50, and 61-64 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSORBENCY DATA

